

Remarks

Claims 1, 2, 20, and 27 are amended to more precisely indicate that the pertinent radicals -NHR4, -NalkR4, -COR4, -COOR4, -CONalkR4 and -CONHR4 are possible substituents on the alkyl, alkenyl and phenyl radicals represented by V.

Claims 1, 2, 20, and 27 are also amended to delete the recitation of the term "--SO2-NH--."

Claims 9, 13 to 17, and 23 to 26, which are directed to the non-elected subject matter of Groups II and III, are canceled without prejudice.

Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the deleted and canceled subject matter in one or more continuation, continuation-in-part, or divisional applications on the same.

No new matter has been added by these amendments.

As presently amended, claims 1 to 8, 12, 20, and 27 are pending in this application.

Certified Copy of Priority Document

The Examiner has not acknowledged that a certified copy of the priority document has been received. However, a certified copy of the priority document, French Application No. 0301915, was filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office on February 17, 2004. Applicants kindly request acknowledgement of the receipt of the certified copy of FR 0301915.

Discussion of Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 1, 2, 12, 20 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being allegedly indefinite for the following reasons.

1. The Examiner states that the "material from sixth from last line of claim 1...through end of fourth from last line of claim is unclear." (Office Action, page 2).

This rejection is believed overcome in view of the above-described amendments to claims 1, 2, 20 and 27 in which punctuation has been added to more precisely indicate that the pertinent radicals -NHR4, -NalkR4, -COR4, -COOR4, -CONalkR4 and -CONHR4 are possible substituents to the alkyl, alkenyl and phenyl radicals represented by V, rather than

choices for V itself or choices for the acid or acid isostere function. Withdrawal of this rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

2. The Examiner indicates that -SO₂NH- is divalent, and alleges that it appears that something is missing.

This rejection is believed overcome in view of the above-described amendments to claims 1, 2, 20 and 27 wherein the term “-SO₂NH-” has been deleted. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Discussion of Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

Claims 1, 2, 12, 20 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as, the Examiner alleges, failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner references the phrase rejected in point 1 of the § 112, second paragraph rejection discussed above, and indicates that “there does not appear to be descriptive support for it.” (Office Action, page 2).

This rejection is traversed and reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are respectfully requested for the reasons given hereinbelow.

Applicants note that the rejected phrase, as presently amended, refers to possible substituents on the alkyl, alkenyl and phenyl radicals represented by V.

Descriptive support for this phrase can be found, for example, in the Specification on page 11, line 36 to page 12, line 10 and also on page 8, lines 6 to 15, and more precisely on page 8, lines 12 to 15. Accordingly, this phrase set for the in claims 1, 2, 20 and 27 complies with the written description requirement of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

Discussion of Objection to the Claims

Claims 3 to 8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the Examiner’s indication that these claims “would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims” (Office Action, page 3).

In view of the foregoing arguments and amendments, claim 1 is believed to be allowable, and, accordingly, claims 3 to 8 should be allowable in dependent form.

There being no remaining issues, this application is believed in condition for favorable reconsideration and early allowance, and such actions are earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required by this paper, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 18-1982.

Respectfully submitted,

May 19, 2008

Date

Kelly L. Bender

Kelly L. Bender, Reg. No. 52,610
Attorney for Applicant

sanofi-aventis U.S. Inc.
U.S. Patent Operations
Route #202-206 / P.O. Box 6800
Bridgewater, NJ 08807-0800
Telephone (610) 889-8995
Telefax (908) 231-2626

sanofi-aventis Docket No. FRAV2003/0006 US NP